FCHS HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN IDENTITY**

**SECTION ONE – THE SHARED VALUES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.**

1. What document provides a concise definition of American beliefs in the line “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness…”? Who was is the author of this document?

**DOCUMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHOR**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Provide three (3) examples of American reformers or civil rights activists who have “re-interpreted” this document over time.

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3. Identify four (4) ***value conflicts*** which have helped to define American identity over the course of time. Explain how each set of values coexist in American society.

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**SECTION TWO – THE BUILDERS OF AMERICAN IDENTITY, 1492 – THE PRESENT**

**A. English Colonists B. The Puritans C. Religious Dissenters**

**D. French Colonists E. Spanish Colonists F. Dutch Colonists**

**G. Enslaved Africans H. The Quakers I. Native Americans**

**J. Catholic Immigrants K. The Portuguese L. Enlightenment Rationalists**

**M. The Great Awakening N. Russian Colonists O. Islamic African Kingdoms**

**\_\_\_\_\_1.** This European group attempted to establish an ***empire based on trade in the Hudson River Valley and Manhattan Island***. They influenced Americans by embracing free markets, capitalism, and toleration of other religious or national groups.

**\_\_\_\_\_2.** This group of people, by natural law, controlled all of the land in America before Columbus’ arrival. ***Disease and warfare with European groups resulted in the loss of both lives and territory***. Amalgamation and assimilation have resulted in dramatic change among surviving tribes today.

**\_\_\_\_\_3.** This group of Americans ***believed in the power of science and learning to solve societal problems***. In the late 18th Century, they devoted themselves to solving this task: the creation of good governments for mankind. They produced *The Declaration of Independence* and the *United States Constitution* before the end of the 18th Century.

**\_\_\_\_\_4.** A group of ***itinerant ministers*** started this movement, which empowered men and women to ***find salvation by experiencing a personal transformation and opening themselves to God***. Some historians argue that this philosophy resulted in the breakdown of social order in New England, because people felt free to engage in ***dissent*** against ministers. If they could register complaints against the minister, then dissent against the mayor, the colonial legislators, the Parliament, and the Crown would follow.

**\_\_\_\_\_5.** This very rigid group of colonists desired ***religious freedom*** for themselves, but did not extend that right to others. Their work ethic and desire to serve the community were enshrined in the ***Mayflower Compact***; however, they were more theocracy than democracy in practice.

**\_\_\_\_\_6.** This group of colonists was motivated by ***God, Gold, and Glory!*** Converting Native Americans to the Catholic faith was their first priority; collecting riches – including gold, silver, or other precious resources – followed closely; and for individuals like Columbus, Pizarro, or Cortez, the glory of a viceroy’s exulted status quickly followed.

**\_\_\_\_\_7.** This group of Americans was ***exploited for economic gain by both the plantation owners of the South and the shipbuilders and merchants of the North***. Their labor literally built America, and the narrative of overcoming racism and persecution is a critical aspect of American identity today.

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**\_\_\_\_\_8.** Members of this faith were committed to the ideas of ***egalitarianism***, and they believed all people, regardless of sex, nationality, skin color, or faith were equal in the eyes of God. They were also committed to ***pacifism***, a position which was not always popular on the Pennsylvania frontier.

**\_\_\_\_\_9.** Europeans began to engage in trade here during the 15th Century. Sophisticated societies like ***Ghana, Mali, and Songhai*** had developed there for centuries, and Arab merchants engaged in trade for gold and other resources. Europeans began purchasing the enslaved here in the 1400s.

**\_\_\_\_\_10.** They colonized ***Alaska*** and portions of the West Coast of the United States – establishing ***trading posts and garrisons as far south as the Oregon Country and California***. In 1867, the Czar sold Alaska to the United States Secretary of State William Seward for just over $7 Million.

**\_\_\_\_\_11.** ***Henry “the Navigator”*** established a school of navigation here during the 15th Century. Better mapmaking, shipbuilding, and navigation helped Europeans to discover methods for sailing long distances. They helped discover the New World in this sense, but also established the slave trade…

**\_\_\_\_\_12.** Those who engaged in ***protest against established churches*** – from ***Anne Hutchinson*** and ***Roger Williams*** in Massachusetts to Thomas Hooker in Connecticut. Those who argued for freedom of conscience were critical to the development of ***religious freedom*** in America over the course of time.

**\_\_\_\_\_13.** From our ***language to our legal system***, colonists from this nation have had enormous influence over the development of American identity. They established ***religious communities*** in the northern part of the eastern seaboard, and plantation colonies to the south, all to export goods back to the mother country, which benefitted from the ***mercantilist system***.

**\_\_\_\_\_14.** Broad stretches of America were settled by this group, which established ***trading posts*** throughout the Great Lakes region, the Mississippi River Valley, and along the St. Lawrence River. Focusing on ***moral suasion*** instead of coercion, they converted Native Americans to Christianity. During the Revolutionary War, America won its independence thanks to a treaty of alliance with this nation.

**\_\_\_\_\_15.** From ***Maryland*** to the waves of ***Irish*** or Southeastern European immigrants of the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, this group had ***struggled to find acceptance in America***. Today, they are the largest single denomination of a Christian Church in the United States.

**PART THREE – REFLECTION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF AMERICAN IDENTITY**

*First, identify the three groups which you think had the least influence on American identity. Be able to explain, in your own words, why you consider their contributions to American identity to be less significant than some other groups.*

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*Secondly, choose six of the remaining groups as “honorable mentions.” These are groups that clearly have some influence on the development of American Identity, but are were not critical, in your opinion, to the nation we have become.*

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*Finally, in order of importance, write out the six most important groups – in order of importance! – in the construction of American identity. For each group, provide a one sentence explanation as to why these groups are so important to our nation’s character.*

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